

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-17. Cancelled

18. (Currently Amended) A nebulizer comprising:

a container adapted to contain a liquid to be nebulized;

a tubular energy transmitter including an acoustic transmitter pipe having one end immersed in the liquid proximate and spaced from the container;

an aerosol tube positioned position about at least around a portion of the tubular energy acoustic transmitter pipe;

an energy source being operatively coupled to the container for nebulization of the liquid and being configured for transmission of energy to a focal region point of the liquid proximate said one end of the tubular energy acoustic transmitter pipe whereby said liquid is forced toward an opposite end of the tubular energy acoustic transmitter pipe and nebulized nebulised within the aerosol tube.

19. (Previously presented) The nebulizer of claim 18 wherein the energy source is positioned below the container.

20. (Cancelled)
21. (Currently Amended) The nebulizer of claim 18 wherein the ~~tubular energy acoustic~~ transmitter pipe is positioned so that said one end is proximate the bottom of the container.
22. (Cancelled)
23. (Cancelled)
24. (Currently Amended) The nebulizer of claim ~~23~~18 wherein an internal diameter of the aerosol tube is greater than an ~~internal~~outer diameter of the ~~tubular energy acoustic~~ transmitter pipe at the opposite end of the ~~tubular energy acoustic~~ transmitter pipe.
25. (Currently Amended) The nebulizer of claim ~~23~~18 wherein the aerosol tube is positioned so that it is substantially coaxial with the ~~tubular energy acoustic~~ transmitter pipe.
26. (Currently Amended) The nebulizer of claim 25 wherein the aerosol tube is connected to the opposite end of the ~~tubular energy acoustic~~ transmitter pipe.
27. (Currently Amended) The nebulizer of claim 26 wherein the energy source vibrates the liquid proximate the opposite end of the ~~tubular energy acoustic~~ transmitter pipe.
28. (Previously Presented) The nebulizer of claim ~~23~~18 wherein the aerosol tube opens at its upper

end into an expansion chamber which in turn communicates with an outlet duct.

29. (Previously Presented) The nebulizer of claim 28 wherein the expansion chamber is adapted to return non-nebulized recirculate larger drops of the liquid back into the container. liquid to the container via a drainage pipe.
30. (Previously Presented) The nebulizer of claim 18 wherein the energy source comprises an ultrasonic transducer for transmission of ultrasonic radiation energy.
31. (Previously Presented) The nebulizer of claim ~~23~~ 30 wherein the ultrasonic transducer has a concave shaped surface.
32. (Previously Presented) The nebulizer of claim 30 wherein the ultrasonic transducer is arranged to transmit ultrasonic energy to a focal region of the liquid.
33. (Cancelled)
34. (Currently Amended) The nebulizer of claim 32 wherein an internal diameter of the ~~tubular~~ energy-acoustic transmitter pipe is substantially equal to a diameter of the focal region.
35. (Currently Amended) The nebulizer of claim 30 wherein the ~~tubular-energy-acoustic transmitter pipe~~ pipe has a higher acoustic impedance than the liquid.
- 35-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) The nebulizer of claim 28,
further comprising a partition wall located to
one side of the expansion chamber to separate the
outlet duct from the ~~tubular-energy-acoustic~~
transmitter pipe.